

Parents challenge school funding

Tanya Kapoor
Editor-in-Chief

Although schools in Sioux Falls are trying to improve their teachers' salaries, the State of South Dakota is facing a lawsuit over school funding and teachers' salaries. Improper funding and the lowest teacher salary in the nation have prompted parents to sue the state.

"Even regarding the tax burden here and our low cost-of-living, South Dakota still ranks far behind its neighbors in teachers' salaries," said Mr. Scott Abdallah, the lawyer for the parents. "Sioux Falls has its own story to tell [about facilities and salaries], but once you go outside its boundaries, it is shameful."

The state has requested Attorney

General Mr. Larry Long and a team of attorneys to fight the case on its behalf. Abdallah is fighting for school districts and for parents. The lawsuit concerns whether or not the South Dakota Constitution guarantees an "adequate" education.

"The word 'adequate' is not in the

See Funding page 11

Endowment campaign to improve salaries

Tanya Kapoor
Editor-in-Chief

The Sioux Falls Catholic Schools are renowned for providing an excellent education to their students. This education, however, would not be possible without the commitment of skilled teachers. In order to attract more individuals to teach at the Catholic schools and to fund teachers' salaries, the Sioux Falls Catholic Schools' Foundation has set up an endowment.

The endowment is an account in which money is invested in the financial markets. The money for the endowment's principle comes from donors, but only the interest is spent for various purposes, such as tuition assistance, scholarships and teachers' salaries.

"Building an endowment usually takes a few years," said Sioux Falls Catholic Schools Superintendent Dr. Tom Lorang. "It was better to do it twenty years ago, but starting an endowment today is the second-best thing."

The principle in the endowment totals over \$8 million. Also, the Foundation has received \$9 million in pledges of the \$15 million it has set as a goal in the Building on Excellence campaign.

"Over the last four years, the endowment has grown one million dollars each year," said Sioux Falls Catholic Schools' Foundation Executive Director Mr. Mike Flynn. "Our long term goal for the endowment is \$100 million, and we expect it to exponentially increase over the next few years because of the Building on Excellence campaign."

See Teachers page 11

Minus floors, construction on schedule for new year

Melissa Rushing
Assistant Editor

To students, the once familiar O'Gorman High School may appear in shambles with no sense of forward direction, but apart from the flooring not being complete, the construction of the school is currently on schedule. Carpeting in the classrooms should be placed soon, followed closely by tile in the hallways by mid-October, if not sooner.

Much work is being done on the new school although students may not often be aware of it during the day. Most of the construction is being done on the new O-wing. In fact, the framing of the O-wing is up, as is the drywall, making the wing an enclosed space; this allows the building to continue to be worked on during winter and considerably reduces construction noise.

"[Construction noise] will be nothing like last year," said principal Mr. Kyle Groos. "We don't anticipate that at all. It's smooth sailing from here."

The location of the new administration offices will be excavated next week and enclosed by the end of September so that, like the new O-wing, the construction process will not be hindered by snow.

The schedule for the demolition of

See Construction page 2



KNIGHT SCROLL

Construction has progressed on the school building. Two of the three wings have been built and the front is currently under construction.

In this issue:

- 5 Oral Interp
- 6 Football
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- 10 New Teachers

"Mac" dons new field, scoreboard

Joe Klein
Assistant Editor

McEneaney Field is greener now than ever before. While the main O'Gorman building is the target of most construction attention, McEneaney Field has received a slew of upgrades and improvements that will benefit the school not only this

season, but also for years into the future.

Before renovations began the field itself was slowly dying—every year contractors fertilized and watered fervently in an attempt to revitalize the sickly grass. The inadequacies of the field were many—O'Gorman

See Field page 6

Viereck honored in scholarship

Taylor Reaves
Staff Writer

Over \$400 has been raised from t-shirt sales for the Joe Viereck Memorial Scholarship Fund. Last spring, senior Hannah Statz decided that she wanted to do something to honor the life of her friend, Joe

Viereck. She talked with friends who helped create a t-shirt in memoriam of his life.

"I wanted to do something to keep his memory alive and to remember what a great friend he was," said Statz. "It seems like not a day goes by when I don't see someone wearing his shirt."

Letter from the editor

Tanya Kapoor
Editor-in-Chief

I would like to present to you our first issue of the *Scroll* for the 2008-2009 school year. This issue represents the enthusiasm and service of the editorial board and the staff writers, the insight of our adviser, Mr. Van Engen, and the hope of all of us at the *Scroll* that we can make each issue our strongest issue yet.

Two months ago, on a downcast day this summer, five individuals gathered to plan the *Knight Scroll* for this year. While most of us were in vacation mood, others had been planning this meeting for at least a month (ahem, Mr. V). At that time, all of us agreed to keep the newspaper to eight pages. The quality of the articles and the quantity of advertisements, though, exceeded our expectations, and we decided to give O’Gorman a twelve-page *Scroll*.

With this issue I have realized that this newspaper is what we as journalists make it, and we only intend to create a newspaper that lives up to its potential. In

order to do that, my plan is that we continuously improve our paper this year. We have already started by improving our writing and by expanding this paper.

Good journalism never starts from the top; it starts from the roots of a newspaper—



reporting and writing. Just because we have expanded our paper does not mean that we will neglect our articles. For the next two months, all of us have focused on enriching our stories with good reporting and good content while making our paper seem interesting to our audience: O’Gorman students and faculty.

We have truly learned to

write well while uncovering the diversity of personalities in our school. Students will have unique stories—from the article about McEneaney Field to the piece on Mr. Gordon—to read in this issue of the *Scroll*.

My goal at the paper this year is to build a bridge between what the paper was last year—a good paper—and what I plan the paper will be in May of 2009—one of the strongest school newspapers in South Dakota. We have already started progressing on this goal because our writing has improved from what it was last year. This year is no longer a transition year; it is the year that will define the *Scroll*, its quality and its reputation.

A *Scroll* with twelve pages and quality writing is here. Two years ago, it would have been impossible. In the past year, we have come so far, but we intend to go further, to achieve more, to work harder with our design and articles and to exceed your expectations. That, O’Gorman, is our promise to you, and I fully believe in the 2008-2009 *Scroll*’s ability to deliver.



KNIGHT SCROLL

Construction crews work on the final academic wing.

Construction

Continued from page 1

the existing G-wing is tentative as administration needs to relocate to their new offices which are set to be completed by late spring or early summer. From there, the building schedule for the new foyer can be determined.

By January, the latest specs for the new Performing Arts Center (PAC) will be decided, said Groos. Currently there is a focus group together deciding what things, such as backstage equipment, are needed for the Performing Arts Center and how this will correspond with

available finances.

The Building on Excellence Campaign has been working on raising money on the fund for the PAC since last November, and there is approximately \$1.5-2 million still left to be raised.

During the summer of 2009, The Building on Excellence Campaign also wishes to add two conjoined locker rooms that can be used by larger visiting teams or separated for visiting boys and girls teams.

The Capital Improvement Project, a program already in existence, will also improve the existing boys and girls locker rooms.

Scroll Staff

Editor-in-Chief

Tanya Kapoor

Assistant Editors

Joe Klein

Melissa Rushing

Jameson Goetz

Staff Writers

Shilpa Chandran

Samantha Crain

Elizabeth Cynkar

Zachary Dresch

Christina Engeman

Matt Entringer

Domenica Gilbert

Rebecca Hagemeyer

Claire Hassel

Jordan Heisler

Rebecca Jarding

Maggie Lawler

Rachel Lindgren

Patrick Linsenmeyer

Maegen Lipetzky

Christopher Oligmueller

Taylor Reaves

Adam Wilka

Dacia Willson

Adviser

Jason A. Van Engen

Contact

Email:

ogscroll@gmail.com

jvanengen@sfcss.org

Address:

Knight Scroll

SFCSS

3201 S Kiwanis Ave.

Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor should be concise. The writer should include a name and contact information. All letters may be edited for grammar and content.

Editorial Policy

All editorials are the sole opinion of the writer and do not necessarily represent the beliefs of the O’Gorman faculty, administration or the *Knight Scroll*.

Quotes of the Month

1. “Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.”
2. “Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal.”
3. “Wherever you go, go with all your heart.”
4. “I do not have superior intelligence or faultless looks. I do not captivate a room or run a mile under six minutes. I only succeeded because I was still working after everyone else went to sleep.”
5. “My voice is soothing.”
6. “Success is a journey not a destination. The doing is usually more important than the outcome. Not everyone can be Number 1.”
7. “There’s an old saying in Tennessee — I know it’s in Texas, probably in Tennessee — that says, fool me once, shame on you. Fool me — you can’t get fooled again.”
8. “Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men.”

8. President John F. Kennedy
7. President George W. Bush
6. Arthur Robert Ashe, Jr.
5. Mr. Van Engen

4. Greg Evans
3. Confucius
2. Henry Ford
1. Mark Twain

Answers

Students, staff dress up for homecoming

Maggie Lawler
Jordan Heisler

Nerd Day



Tyler Jacobsen



Mr. Basche

Pirate Day



Caitlin Woodard



Dan Haiar

Movie/Duo Day



Zach Johnson and Preston Martin

Spirit Day



John Schoppert



Sam Jacobsen
and Zach Cole

Three decades in the making



Adam Wilka
Staff Writer

Mr. Jeff Gordon, an instructor at O'Gorman for the last 32 years, sat down with the *Scroll* for an interview. He teaches World Geography, A.P. U.S. History, A.P. European History and A.P. World History.

Scroll: What year did you graduate from high school?

Gordon: 1973

S: What made you want to be a teacher?

G: In the beginning, I was interested in history, probably since I was about ten years old, [and] I always enjoyed that. And probably the first thing that I wanted to do was to be a coach, and I kind of understood that if you wanted to coach in high school, you would need to be a teacher. Early on, when I was in college, I thought that I would like to teach physical education and coach, and I graduated from college with two majors, one in history and one in physical education, because I kind of assumed that I might get a position doing that, but I've never taught that in high school.

S: Was O'Gorman the first school you taught at?

G: Yes

S: Were there any openings in physical education, or did you just decide to try for history instead?

G: I applied for a history teaching position.

S: Was it your desire to coach that led up to your desire to teach?

G: Yes, most definitely.

S: I know you teach freshmen football and wrestling. Were there any other sports that you wanted to coach?

G: I like sports in general. I grew up doing all of those activities. I played baseball and basketball. I started wrestling when I was about 14, and I kind of thought that I'd be a wrestling coach, but I also understood that you were expected to coach more than one sport, so I got certification to coach football.

S: How many years have you taught, and how many of them have been spent at O'Gorman?

G: This is my thirty-second year of teaching, and they have all been here.

S: Have you taught here the longest?

G: I think I'm the longest tenured person at O'Gorman, but I think Mr. Lorang has taught longer in the Sioux Falls Catholic School System.

S: Do you have any stories about some memorable moments teaching at O'Gorman?

G: Oh yeah (laughs). There are some interesting things. One year the roof was so bad, it rained really hard and the halls were so flooded that we couldn't have school. And there are just a lot of things that have happened at school here. My daughters went here, and I have always had trouble with how clothes should look, and they'd come home from school and say, "Dad didn't match today!" There are a lot of funny things that have happened with the people here. What you have to understand is that when I started teaching here, I was 21 years old, and during the interview, they were wondering if I could grow facial hair because they wanted to make sure that I looked older than the students. I think for [about] six weeks or so they charged me the student

See Gordon page 5

Shannon Dyce

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KNIGHT SCROLL

The Marching Knight color guard performs during half time at the first home game.

Marching band set for fall competitions

Rebecca Jarding
Maegen Lipetzky

Although it is not considered a sport by many, marching band demands just as much dedication as other school activities. In the first week of practice the band accumulated over one hundred hours of practice. The drum line and color guard had to take part in additional practice time this summer.

According to director Mr. Jim Smith, the Marching Knights are striving to achieve the same goals as always: to entertain, perform well and to provide a positive experience for the band members. They hope their many hours of practice will help them achieve these goals.

"Band has been a great experience, yet really time consuming," said freshman Katrina Anderson. "You are able to make a lot of new friends and meet many upperclassmen.

The best part of band is having Smitty as our teacher, and our drum majors make the band so much more fun."

The drum majors this year are seniors Nathan Kautz and

"I encourage everyone to come watch us perform because marching band is a truly unique entertainment experience and we put a lot of time and hard work into it"

- Rachael Andersen

Rachael Andersen.

New to the band this year is the reconstructed football field. Smith explained that the turf is not only safer with its lack of holes, but that it is also cleaner,

making concerns about tracking mud and grass clippings into the school a thing of the past. Overall, the new turf has been a positive innovation for the band.

"Our drills and music are some of the hardest that we've ever done," said drum major Rachael Andersen. "I encourage everyone to come watch us perform because marching band is a truly unique entertainment experience and we put a lot of time and hard work into it."

This year's show, "A Tribute to Danny Elfman," features many notable movie themes including *Spiderman*, *Beetlejuice* and *The Nightmare Before Christmas*.

The Marching Knights will be performing on Oct. 4 at the Festival of Bands, Oct. 11 in Chamberlain at the River City Band Festival and Oct. 18 in Vermillion at the Quad-State Contest at the University of South Dakota.

FCA to head up new activities this year

Claire Hassel
Domenica Gilbert

One of the many activities that is offered at O'Gorman is Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Although it may be something that has not caught the attention of many students in past years, FCA has an exciting year planned.

FCA's mission is incorporating Christian morals in daily life, specifically in sport related activities. FCA is a national organization present at O'Gorman for over 35 years. Experience in sports is not required to join FCA.

"An interest in athletics helps, but you don't have to be an athlete," said Mr. Rick Lynch, who heads FCA at O'Gorman along with Mr. Joe Rutten.

This activity meets two

to three times a month with various activities planned each week. For example, last year included anything ranging from kickball to a movie night. FCA is truly open to students of all interests with an opportunity to grow in faith.

"FCA is a rewarding experience because it allows me to grow in my faith while having fun," said senior Jenna Booth.

Booth is one of the eleven seniors helping lead FCA this year.

This year, FCA is keeping some of the traditional activities along with adding new ones. As in previous years, FCA will host building ginger bread houses with the student council, trick-or-treating, as well as others. New activities planned for this year include an easter egg hunt and ice skating.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

O'G Rocket team members watch as their rocket takes flight.

O'G rocket team places in national meet over summer

Patrick Linsenmeyer
Samantha Crain

At the national meet this summer, the O'Gorman rocketeers ended with a bang, a pop and a soft thud.

Ms. Jane Schnell's team beat out 574 other rocket teams from across the United States. Schnell said they would have placed in the top ten if it had not been for a last minute complication. Still, they walked away with a prize telescope in their hands.

Captain Josh McQuade,

and members Liz Koletzky, Dong Yun Shin, Dempster Christensen, Josh Linneman and Brian Schulte returned victorious from where no Knights have gone before.

Rules dictate that a winning rocket must ascend to exactly 750 feet and land 45 seconds after leaving the ground.

"I predict we do better and go to Nationals again," said McQuade.

With these words, another rocket will be up in the air again.



KNIGHT SCROLL

Interpers line the hall as they practice during a team night.

Interp kicks off new season

Rachel Lindgren
Dacia Willson

After another successful summer at nationals, the interpers are dusting off their suits and gearing up for the competition. There are, according to Ms. Teresa Fester, around 90-120 students participating.

A handful of key interpers graduated this past year, including Ngoc Thach and Chloe Goldade.

“As always, each year brings about new students ready to take leadership positions on the team,” said Fester.

One such student is team

co-captain, Andy Thuringer.

“His drama piece last year was great, very inspiring,” said sophomore teammate Chris Michels.

Along with Thuringer, the three other co-team captains are seniors Maggie Lawler, Rachael Andersen and Tyler Jacobsen. All four were among those who traveled to Nationals this past summer in Las Vegas.

“We spent five solid days competing in 108 degree heat,” said Fester. “Andy made it to semi-finals while Lawler and Jacobsen made it to quarter finals. This put them in the top 24 for expository speaking in the nation,” said Fester.

The team also performed favorably at the Catholic Forensic League Grand Nationals in Appleton, Wisconsin. Thach was an octo-finalist in drama, while Lawler and Jacobsen placed 8th in the nation for duo interp.

“What I like best about oral interp are the bus rides, warm ups, competing and team nights,” said three-year participant Liz Bunkers.

Like many of the participants, Bunkers performs in more than one category.

Some of the categories the students have the opportunity to perform in are expository, oratory, duo, readers theatre and humor.

Gordon

Continued from page 3

lunch price, so I had some kind of funny issues like that. I used to have a mustache, and the reason that I had my mustache was because I was kind of going along with needing to look older than the students.

It’s also really enjoyable being in the community because I’ve been fortunate to be here long enough where you have another generation coming through, and you have parents night and you see parents that you taught, and now you have their children and that’s neat in and of itself.

S: You said you have two daughters?

G: Yes, I have two daughters and two sons, and they all graduated from O’Gorman.

S: What would you say has been the proudest moment of your life so far?

G: I’d say one example would be that when I started teaching here my children were small, and I think when I came here, O’Gorman was a good school. I think I’ve been fortunate enough to be here when a lot of positive things have happened under the leadership of Dr. Lorang and our school administration, and so at one point in time, I decided that for sure what I wanted to do was to have all of my children graduate from O’Gorman. I’m also

proud of O’Gorman’s position in the community and of what high regard people have of O’Gorman in the community. I’m very proud of that and of all the quality people that have graduated from here and have gone on to good things in our communities and in other communities. It’s kind of like you’re a part of a process for the greater good, and it benefits a lot of other people, and I think that has been really memorable.

S: Do you have any words of encouragement or advice that you would like to give students and young teachers?

G: I would say that you make high school an experience of discovery, like finding your niche. A lot of times people are fortunate enough to do that in high school, and if you don’t think you’ve accomplished that in high school, keep searching for it, because you’re going to find something that you’re passionate about, and I think that’s really important as you go through life and you get careers. I think we’re moving away from generations that wanted to do things because they were monetarily rewarding. I’d say to high school students to keep looking for what your niche is, for what works for you. I would say to young teachers to hang in there and keep working at it, and that if you are going to succeed, it’s going to be at a school like O’Gorman High School.

Celebrate Red Ribbon Week
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KNIGHT SCROLL

Quarterback Tony Viger (16) runs for a first down as Mike Isaacson (43) blocks against Mitchell.



JOE KLEIN / KNIGHT SCROLL

Students join in prayer following O'Gorman's win at the first home game.

Field

Continued from page 1

is the only campus in the state that has junior and senior high schools sharing a track and field. This combined with the abnormal six (versus standard eight) lane track and the lack of jump pits and pole vault equipment has made it difficult for O'G to host meets of any kind.

"We knew that something had to be done," said SFCS Superintendent Dr. Tom Lorang.

While the new turf, scoreboard, restroom/concession building and additional seating certainly give the complex a much needed facelift, they also represent vast improvements in functionality and safety.

The turf is not only much more cost efficient due to cut cost of maintenance, but it also offers a safer, more durable surface for school activities.

The turf is a layered material that helps to absorb impacts, making the field safer for contact sports, specifically football.

"These updates will benefit the kids of O'Gorman—essentially everyone," said Activities Director Steve Kueter.

The field will also now see many new uses. Soccer games, football practice and marching band rehearsal are just some examples of groups already utilizing the new field. Until recently, all of these activities had to be held off site.

Aside from school activity use, the field has

also been transformed into another source of revenue.

The surface is now durable enough for the school to rent the field to the public.

A new scoreboard from the Brookings company Daktronics adorns the updated Mac. Besides having features such as live video and much improved statistic abilities, the board is another source of revenue.

The scoreboard has paid for itself nearly twice. Through pledges and advertisements toward the board, revenue will continue to be generated years in the future.

The improvements to McEneaney were so significant that O'Gorman was able to put a bid in to host this year's state track meet.

Dakota Bowl XXX gives Knights win, boost in rankings

Jameson Goetz
Assistant Editor

The O'Gorman Knights came into the Dakota Bowl unranked and unproven as a contender for the state title. After beginning their season with a loss to then unranked Brandon Valley, it was obvious that the Knights, as well as their loyal fan base, wanted to see their season turn around against second-ranked Washington.

"We knew we were a better team than our record indicated, and it was up to us to prove it," said senior running back Will Powell.

If the weather during the pre-game festivities were to be indicative of the Knights' fortunes, they were in trouble. From early in the morning to late in the afternoon, cold and rainy weather hampered but did not impede many tailgating activities. However, the weather cleared by the start of the game. Eight thousand people were on hand to witness the Knights' encounter with the Washington Warriors.

With a field goal from Trevor Hooten and a touchdown pass

from Will Powell to Phil Wright, the Knights took a 9-0 lead at half-time. After the half-time show, which featured a fireworks display along with Shawn Cable's rendition of "I'm Proud to be an American," the Knights began with a 95 yard kick-off return.

"At that point I knew we stood a great chance of winning because our defense had been playing great all night," said senior cornerback Pat Cink. "We were keeping their passing attack under control, and we were getting pressure up front."

The Knights held on to their lead for the rest of the second half. With a 22-14 victory the Knights re-established themselves as title contenders.

"We played O'Gorman football and showed what we were capable of," said senior center and defensive tackle Adam Schroeder. "This was exactly what our team needed."

After a thrilling 24-17 victory over rival Roosevelt, and commanding wins over Mitchell and Rapid City Stevens, the Knights have pushed their record to 4-1.



KNIGHT LEGEND

Dan Busch runs down the ball during a soccer match against Pierre.

Soccer team improves record

Jordan Heisler
Adam Wilka

After their recent game against Yankton, which ended in a tie, the O'Gorman boys soccer team has a record of 2-4-2. Although this record does not appear to be impressive, the Knights are still confident in their team.

"It's not how you start the season that's important, it's how you end it," said senior Andrew Deal. "Although we did not start out the season with the best record, I think we

could pull through and end the season strong."

"Although we didn't start out the season with the best record, I think we could pull through and end the season strong."

- Andrew Deal

The Knights are led this season by a core group of

seniors including Deal, Dan Busch, Jon Oliver and others. Also helping the Knights this year are juniors Ryan Graber, Zach Johnson and Kameron Keck.

Some key games for the Knights include their 2-0 victory against unofficial rivals, the Brookings Bobcats, with goals from Preston Martin and Dan Busch. Recently the Knights held their own against Yankton, the second ranked team in the state. The end score of the game was 0-0.

Lady Knights dominate in tennis competition

2007 State Tournament defending champions look for 2008 repeat

Matt Entringer
Christopher Oligmueller

Last year the O'Gorman High School girls tennis team cruised through the season in an assertive manner, going undefeated and outdistancing its nearest competitor by almost 200 points at the State Tournament. The 2008 girls tennis team consists of the returning state championship team, including junior Theresa Petrasko, sophomores Meg Townsend, Hannah Vandemark, Erin Hoffman, Katie Schwebach and freshman Chandler Nielsen.

"Our goal is definitely to repeat, but I do not think it will be easy," said junior Theresa Petrasko, the number one singles player and half of the number one doubles team. "We will have to play well and try to handle the pressure as best as possible."

"I think it's pretty cut and dried as to who the challenges will come from," said Coach Don Barnes. "There might be a few individual players here

and there, but the top five teams are locked. We would be disappointed if we did not repeat."

The 2008 season has been nothing different for co-coaches Don and Kate Barnes and their team. The defending champions continued their winning-streak into the 2008 season as they finished their second straight regular season undefeated.

Coach Barnes feels confident in his girls as they prepare for the state tournament.

Jason Olson, head coach of rival Rapid City Stevens, seems to agree with Barnes.

"O'Gorman is the top team in the state," he said. "But Roosevelt and Lincoln are also going to be very tough, and Aberdeen Central will be very strong out of the ESD."

The O'Gorman Knights girls tennis team competes at the State Tournament which takes place Oct. 9 through 11 in Rapid City.

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PRESS PHOTO

Hugh Jackman stars in the new Baz Luhrmann film, *Australia*, set to premiere Nov. 26.

Hollywood's biggest names hit screens in autumn films

Melissa Rushing
Assistant Editor

With the summer blockbuster season drawing to a close, it's time for the stirring procession of Oscar hopefuls to take the big screen. For your viewing pleasure, a quick list of movies spanning the genres set to release this October and November:

How to Lose Friends and Alienate People, a movie adaptation of former *Vanity Fair* contributor Toby Jones' memoir, premieres Oct. 3 with *Hot Fuzz* and *Shaun of the Dead*'s Simon Pegg — minus his dynamic double, Nick Frost. Also the week of the third comes Michael Cera in *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*, which is sure to be a hit among the high school crowd,

and there appears no evidence that anyone is growing bored with Cera's repeated stellar performances as the "awkward teenager".

The week of Oct. 10, *Quarantine* and *Body of Lies* are set for release. *Quarantine* is one of the few horror/thriller flicks to hit theaters this fall and presents itself in semi-*Cloverfield* fashion with videotape footage of a mysterious CDC-issued quarantine. *Body of Lies* stars big names like Leonardo DiCaprio and Russel Crowe with a current-day-issue plot of ex-journalist DiCaprio working with CIA agent Crowe to locate an Al-Qaeda leader.

Less noteworthy — but definitely chuckle-worthy — is a documentary about President George W. Bush as governor of

Texas and his race for president in the 2000 elections.

On Oct. 17, *The Secret Life of Bees*, a film version of Sue Monk Kidd's best selling novel, will premiere with a solid cast including Dakota Fanning, Jennifer Hudson, and Queen Latifah.

High School Musical 3: Senior Year is set for premiere the week of Oct. 24 and while one shouldn't hold one's breath for its Oscar nomination, it deserves a mention and a snide remark for its grotesquely large fan base.

On an opposite note, *Saw V*, most likely the only true horror film this fall, will also be premiering Oct. 24.

To start off the November films with a bang, DreamWorks presents *Madagascar: Escape 2*

Africa, a cartoon worth getting excited about for Nov. 7. Hopefully *Escape 2 Africa* can live up to the first *Madagascar*, which grossed over \$500 million worldwide, and not fall ill with sequelitis, from which no film series can recover.

Filling out mid-November is the much anticipated 007 flick, *Quantum of Solace*, on Nov. 14; *Twilight* on Nov. 21; and also on Nov. 21, *The Soloist*, with Jamie Foxx, Robert Downey, Jr., and *Atonement* director, Joe Wright. The last week of November marks the premiere of *Australia*, starring Australians Hugh Jackman and Nicole Kidman, in what is rumored to be the "down-under *Gone with the Wind*." *Australia* opens on Nov. 26.

Hardcore band plans to record new album

Zachary Dresch
Staff Writer

Several local bands are making their way through the halls of O'Gorman High School. These bands differ in terms of sound, genre and musical integrity. One of these bands getting local recognition is The Trouble Shooters.

The Trouble Shooters are a four-piece hardcore and punk band that formed in late 2006. The band consists of seniors Dan Stefanich, Jeremy Dougherty, Keith Lipetzky and Dustin Vognild.

"We thought of it as a way to play music that people would enjoy, and that we would enjoy playing for the people as well," said Vognild and Stefanich.

They are planning on recording at Cathouse Studios sometime in the near future.

"We just love to play and perform for all of our fans, and we're looking forward to recording and getting a CD out," said Vognild.

Some of their musical influences include fellow local band Private Drive and national bands such as The Used.

"Our favorite thing about performing is the energy that comes with playing and having everyone dance to our songs," said Vognild.

They recently played a couple of shows at Nutty's North with other bands. So far, they have written a dozen songs and have other written ideas as well.

"We just play for fun, but if we were ever asked to join a label, we definitely wouldn't turn it down," said the band members.

Mischief abounds in Musical Comedy Murders

Rebecca Hagemeyer
Christina Engeman

This year the O'Gorman Drama Department will be performing the *Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* on Oct. 24-27. Emily Hoffman, a junior who will play the role of Nikki, a struggling actress, said this play has a very talented cast and they're all having a lot of fun working on it. Avoiding giving too much

of the plot away, senior Shannon Mastel said it's a bizarre play but it's really fun and exciting.

With a cast made up of only ten students, making the part was difficult for the fall play. For students looking to give acting a shot for any upcoming plays, Hoffman says to stay involved and just give it a shot. Hoffman also says that the worst that can happen is you won't make it and then you can try out next time.

"My veterans would tell them to have fun," said director of the play Mr. Scott Nelson. "That is my motto to auditioning. I want them to be as comfortable as they can as they audition. Yes, I know that it can be a frightening experience, but I want them to be able to showcase their abilities."

Nelson and the cast hope to entertain the audience and give them a good laugh and evening of fun.



Photo Survey

“What do you like most about the new school?”



Mrs. Dunn

“Everything, and it'll even be better when it's all done.”



Abby Meyers

“The automatic flushers and the automatic faucets so my hands don't get all nasty.”



Keegan Miles

“The new school is well-lit.”



Mr. Nelson

“I'm really excited about having a new home. But I'm also glad others have gone before me so I know what I can and cannot do.”



Hannah VanDemark

“I am looking forward to bathroom doors that stay shut.”

Mock government emphasizes value of civic involvement

Jameson Goetz
Assistant Editor

For most rising high school seniors, the idea of a perfect start to summer vacation does not include spending a week at Northern State University in Aberdeen. I would classify myself as one of those naysayers.

Unfortunately, it was not until the morning of my departure that I fully understood my contempt for such. Nonetheless, I, along with several other O’Gorman students made our way to an experiment in government, the 66th Annual South Dakota American Legion Boys State.

Before explaining my experiences in Aberdeen, I think that it is necessary to explain what exactly the program entails.

This experiment in government involves around 500 will-be high school seniors from all around the state. The participants are selected by their respective American Legion Posts or high schools. To the majority of people, being selected as a delegate to Boys state is an esteemed honor,

especially considering some high schools are only allocated a few delegates.

The week involves a progression of mock government from the city level, to the county level and finally to the state level. This progression includes mock elections for the government positions as well as mock legislative sessions. However, don’t be keen on believing much policy debate occurs. There was confusion between whether or not mock government meant mock legislating mock policy.

Although none of the O’Gorman delegates were elected to any state office, we were very involved in the election process. Matt Fitzgibbons lost his State Auditor election by three votes.

Overall, I believe my time at the 66th Annual South Dakota American Legion Boys State was very worthwhile. I was exposed to many things I was previously unfamiliar with, like what life is like in rural South Dakota. The American Legion program has had a long history of producing influential people; I would consider this year to be no different.

Girls’ State allows senior to find her voice

Tanya Kapoor
Editor-in-Chief

On a sunny Memorial Day, I, along with eleven other O’Gorman girls, traveled to Vermillion, South Dakota—out of all the exciting places in the world—to find my voice as a citizen. South Dakota Girls’ State, held on the campus of USD, allowed more than 500 rising seniors across the state to come together and personally learn about the workings of government.

“I would say the best part of the actual Girls’ State experience was acting out our elected roles,” said senior Bridgid Hurley. “I was in the Agriculture Committee in the Senate, and I thought I knew about agriculture, but I was blown away by what other girls who actually lived on farms and were from other parts of the state knew. Their problems were much different than ours in Sioux Falls.”

At the beginning of Girls’

State, all of the girls were broken into mythical cities. These cities had elections for mayor and city councilors. My city was St. Paul, and I was a city councilwoman there. Others were assigned rather interesting roles. Seeing the roles these girls had, I somewhat regret that I was not the official boy-spotter of St. Paul. Oh well, everything happens for a reason.

“My jobs as a senator and St. Louis’ one-and-only fashion police were equally important,” said Hurley.

To get elected, girls used many unique campaign slogans. My official campaign slogan was “Seize the day with Tanya K.” It was inspired by the Disney movie *Newsies*. It worked, but it stuck so well that if I ever meet a fellow Girls’ Stater ten years from now, that is (unfortunately) how she will remember me.

The week influenced us in many ways, but for Margaret Free, the highlight of the week was her birthday. That day, she received a cake from Hurley and enjoyed it with her fellow

O’Gorman Girls’ Staters. I even have a picture of Margaret, who looks as if she is staring into my soul, with a piece of that delicious birthday cake.

“One of the highlights of

“I would say the best part of the actual Girls’ State experience was acting out our elected roles”

Bridgid Hurley

the week was eating my birthday cake with my bare hands,” Free said.

Another highlight of the week was the underground talent show. The talent show was put on in the basement of USD by Hurley, Free, Liz

Loundenslager, Erin O’Connor and Jenna Booth. Their talent was an interpretive dance of “Escape” by Enrique Iglesias. My own words will never adequately describe the dance or the reaction it generated.

“The underground talent show was put on by those who did not make the regular talent show,” said Kara Busch. “The basement of USD will never see such raw talent ever again.”

“We didn’t even think it was going to happen after the tornado and the party debates,” said Hurley. “We didn’t think anyone would come, but it happened. It was priceless: ultimately knowing that people enjoyed our dance more than the Washington girls’ was simply divine.”

Officials also gave us their blessings to get involved in politics. Too bad they could not give us a stash of money and full campaign staff, but the inspiration they gave was powerful. Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, Sen. John Thune and even former

President Bill Clinton visited Vermillion while we were there.

Although I had to endure USD’s amazing college food, had to dress up every day except that Thursday (That day, I had to wear the “SD Girls’ State” t-shirt; if you want freedom of expression, Girls’ State is not the place for you), and had to be at flag-raising every morning at 7:30 during the summer, the whole experience was beneficial. It increased my respect for government and politics (gasp!), and it gave me what I put into it: my talent of creativity, my desire to win and my need to discover.

I strongly encourage the junior girls to put Girls’ State into their future plans. As for junior boys, Boys’ State is different. It isn’t as much fun as Girls’ State. After all, which boy would want to “seize the day” and then do an interpretive dance underground? That was what it was all about.

New staff adds variety to O’Gorman

Students and staff welcome seven teachers in new positions

Shilpa Chandran and Elizabeth Cynkar

Nancy Grinde
Math and Science



Ms. Nancy Grinde teaches two distinct subjects at O’Gorman: Algebra II and Physical Science.

“The two are so interconnected that I’m interested in both equally,” said Grinde.

Grinde grew up on a hog farm. Before coming to Sioux Falls, she taught at a public school in Marion, South Dakota, for two years.

There, she taught students ranging from seventh to twelfth grade.

The reason for her move to O’Gorman was for a change of pace. In addition to that, she wanted to see how different a private school education is from that of a public school.

Her favorite parts about O’Gorman are the students and staff, whom she says are very upbeat and positive people.

Chad LeBrun
Spanish



Mr. Chad LeBrun is a new Spanish teacher at O’Gorman High School.

He is also putting together an academic quiz bowl team along with coaching the junior high football team.

He teaches Spanish Literature and Spanish I at OGHS for two periods and Exploratory Spanish and Spanish I at OGJH for the rest of the day.

LeBrun has a B.S. degree in Spanish Education and will be completing his Masters in Spanish Literature.

Spanish has not been the only major aspect of LeBrun’s life.

“When I was younger, I was actually a volunteer EMT,” said LeBrun.

Before deciding to come to O’Gorman, LeBrun taught at Alcester-Hudson High School. LeBrun has traveled to Spain for the last three summers.

Sophia Hermanson
English



Mrs. Sophia Hermanson is joining O’Gorman’s English department. She teaches English II (Literature/Composition) and English III.

She has always been interested in English, especially literature, so the subject seemed natural for her to teach.

Before coming to O’Gorman, Hermanson was a student teacher at Yankton High School.

She enjoys the students and staff, who she said are supportive and respectful. The friendly atmosphere that O’Gorman offers is her favorite part.

Not only is she a new face in the O’Gorman hallways, but she and her husband are also soon going to welcome a new face into their family. They are expecting their first baby in February.

Matthew Schaefer
Theology



Mr. Matthew Schaefer is a new addition to the Theology department. He teaches Marriage and Vocations, Liturgy and Prayer.

He previously worked at St. Michael’s Parish in Prior Lake, Minn., as a youth minister and faith formation director.

“What could be more interesting than the living, breathing, and thriving Catholic Church?” said Schaefer. “With over 2000 years of tradition, and the constant mystery that is God, what more could you ask for?”

Schaefer has a passion for his faith. That passion led him to O’Gorman. He loves that the students have the opportunity to share their faith here twenty-four hours a day.

Additionally, he immensely enjoys the warm and welcoming environment that O’Gorman puts forward.

Randi Wallenberg
Knightlights/Choir



The vocal department of O’Gorman welcomes newcomer Ms. Randi Wallenberg to their staff.

She assists with KnightLights and the choir. She is from Bloomington, Minn., where she worked as the Recreation Supervisor in charge of youth and family programs.

“Music is something that has impacted my life in such positive ways,” said Wallenberg. “I wanted to help students experience the power of singing in a group and working hard to accomplish great performances.”

The construction going on excites her, and she is especially eager to see the new performing arts center.

Wallenberg was honored to be part of a school like O’Gorman. Her favorite part about O’Gorman is the energy of the students.

Patrick Frankman
Photography



Mr. Patrick Frankman does not only teach photography in his class but also integrates it into many more aspects of his life. He is a supervisor at Harold’s Photo

Centers and owns his own photography business. Frankman specializes in documentary (photojournalistic) style photographs.

He shoots weddings, portraits, and fine art photography. He graduated from Montana State University in Bozeman and has a degree in photography and writing. But before his college career, he was an alumnus of O’Gorman High School, class of 1998. He was asked by Mr. Gary Siska to come and teach and was more than happy to accept.

“O’Gorman is not only a school but also a community where everyone works well together and are very kind,” said Frankman.

One of his favorite pastimes is cooking and reading novels written by his favorite author, Kurt Vonnegut.

Sue Sommervold
Ed. Assistant



Mrs. Sue Sommervold was a teacher for last year’s theology classes. Many of O’Gorman’s students recognize her,

and now she will be joining the staff full time as an assistant for academic services.

She has four children: Erik, a freshman at O’Gorman, Emmy, a sophomore, and twins Alison and Gunnar, age ten.

Her O’Gorman roots go deeper than that, though. Her husband, Peter Sommervold, graduated from O’Gorman as well, class of ’82.

Sommervold has a major in Physical Education and a minor in Health. She graduated from Minnesota State University.

She also enjoys traveling and has been on a total of eight cruises thus far.

Teachers

Continued from page 1

The average cost to educate a student from pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade is \$4,419 per year. High school students from one of Sioux Falls' nine parishes pay \$3,460.

"Salaries are approximately 80% of our budget, and that is not unusual for schools," said Lorang. "When we plan our budget, we want high salaries, no increase in tuition, and good programs. We do not want to balance our budget on the backs of teachers or students only, and so it has been a shared sacrifice. Students pay money to attend our schools because of our faith community and our co-curricular programs. However, we ask our teachers to deliver more and they do it. We don't want them to be taken for granted."

The Sioux Falls Catholic Schools' pay schedule is determined on both years of experience and the level of degree that each teacher has attained. Teachers' salaries in the Catholic schools go up with inflation; for the past four years, the School Board has approved an increase of four percent every year. In contrast, the salaries of teachers in the public schools

in South Dakota only increase by three percent each year or by the change in the Consumer Price Index, whichever is less.

Despite that, there is still a gap between the salaries of teachers in the Catholic schools and those of teachers in public schools. The school ranks in the fiftieth percentile in South Dakota for teachers' salaries. However, with the growth of the endowment, teachers' salaries in the Catholic schools are expected to close the gap with those in the public schools.

"We want our teachers to have the best pay scale in the nation," said Flynn. "The goals of the endowment are that the salaries of our teachers to exceed those of their public school peers, that we can provide better tuition assistance, and that we have superior facilities and technology in our schools. The plan is to spend four percent of the endowment on teachers' salaries; so when the endowment grows, that four percent will be greater."

The Sioux Falls Public Schools also have a plan to increase teachers' salaries. Their salary schedule is also based on years of experience and the level of degree attained. The plan, however, compensates teachers for the number of

graduate credits they have earned. However, their plan will not fully take effect until the 2010 school year.

The Sioux Falls School District is currently twelfth in the state regarding starting



Dr. Lorang

teacher salary. With the plan, though, the starting salary would increase from \$30,262 to \$32,000. The largest increase so far has gone to teachers with ten to fifteen years of experience. With the school district's new plan, teachers who have ten years of experience and have met post-graduate criteria will be at the top of the pay schedule.

"At that point, the schedule doesn't recognize the difference

between a teacher with 10 years of experience in the district versus one with 20 years," said Sioux Falls School District Superintendent Dr. Pam Homan. "However, because there are currently close to 200 teachers beyond the top of the new schedule and we didn't want them to go backwards in pay, those teachers will continue to receive a minimum of a \$500 increase per year throughout the term of this contract."

Teachers' salaries somewhat influence the number of full-time teachers and the number of teacher education graduates. There was an increase of over 100 new full-time teachers during the 2006-2007 school year. Despite that, the number of teacher education graduates at South Dakota's public universities went down from 617 in 2000 to 450 in 2006.

In order to encourage students to pursue teacher education degrees, Governor Mike Rounds has suggested a plan that would pay more for teachers in hard-to-fill positions such as math and science. The plan has been met with fierce opposition from superintendents and educators.

"I do not support the program that the Governor has proposed," said Homan. "While certain schools may

have trouble hiring math and science teachers, others may struggle hiring special education teachers while still others cannot find music teachers."

"Generally, it is not right to say that one teacher's assignment is worth more than another," said Lorang. "But when you hire, you have to pay what you have to pay to get a qualified teacher to fill the assignment."

Although the State of South Dakota is trying to set up programs to retain teachers, the main things that attract teachers to the Sioux Falls Catholic Schools are the community and the mission statement.

"Teachers work here for the same reason that I work here," said Flynn. "They believe in our mission. The faith and community really makes a difference. I truly believe that it is the system. The strong community, the parent involvement, and the faculty's commitment all make the difference."

"Our teachers are very committed individuals: we pay them less but ask them to give more, and they do it," said Lorang. "In all justice, we have to do better for our teachers. I feel strongly about that."

Funding

Continued from page 1

Constitution, but our trial judge has already interpreted the Constitution to require the state to provide an adequate education," said Abdallah.

"The word 'adequate' does not appear in the South Dakota Constitution. The idea that an education should be 'adequate' is implied," said Long. "For example, if your school taught only Japanese, swimming, and Russian history, but not English or math, such an education would not be relevant or adequate to prepare you to be a functioning citizen. Therefore, the South Dakota education system must adequately prepare students to enter society after graduation."

The Sioux Falls School District has not endorsed the lawsuit, but many other school districts have. The lawsuit represents ten districts. Among those are the Rapid City School District, the Faith School District and the Willow Lake School District.

"Some school districts have had to freeze salaries, meaning that the teachers get no increase," said Abdallah. "This really affects the students. In Rapid City, the second largest school district in South Dakota, one in four seniors does not graduate, and 43 percent of juniors are not proficient in math."

The main question in the lawsuit, though, is whether or not more school funding would adequately prepare students to become productive individuals in their communities. Abdallah uses money and test scores to scrutinize the school funding formula while Long and the state use test scores and course offerings.

"More [school funding] money does not necessarily mean better results," said

"The students learn in trailer homes and their lockers are outside. That means that in winter, they have to go outside when they have to change classes. In Willow Lake, the school building is ninety years old, and the plumbing is out-of-date. The water that comes out from the water fountains there is brown. By inadequate funding, we are really wronging our students."

"The main complaint about the

"The South Dakota education system must adequately prepare students to enter society after graduation."

- Attorney General Larry Long

Long. "For example, in the 04-05 school year Parker School District (218 students) was 89.45% proficient in reading and math and spent \$5,270.00 per student. But McLaughlin School District (202 students) in the same year was only 47.03% proficient in reading and math and spent \$11,439.00 per student."

According to Abdallah, a lack of funding also affects the types of facilities in which students are being taught.

"In Faith, the school building has been condemned, and the school cannot afford another building," said Abdallah.

Faith School District is that they are having difficulty obtaining a new school building to replace the old one which has been condemned," said Long. "Their test scores are about average for South Dakota and much better than average in the U.S."

Building a public school is a local issue. A school is built after the approval of voters in a special election called a bond issue. A "yes" vote raises property taxes in a sufficient amount to build a new school.

"The Faith School Board has yet to

attempt an election for a new school," said Long. "So, the Faith School District does not have a new school because their school board is satisfied with the current situation. If Faith wants a new school, they should ask the voters for a new school. If the students of Faith are being wronged because they do not have a new school, it is because their school board is not willing to try to build a new school. The fault is with the local school board, not the state."

Schools receive at least \$4,642 per student from the State of South Dakota. The Sioux Falls School District receives \$4,665 from the state. The total funds per student, accumulated from funds other than the state aid formula, are \$8,750.

"I do not feel that the funds we receive from the state aid formula are adequate," said Sioux Falls School District Superintendent Dr. Pam Homan. "I believe it is completely unacceptable for the state to balance its budget on the backs of South Dakota's school-aged children. However, it is our expectation that we will solve this burgeoning crisis through the legislative process and at the ballot box, not through the courts."

The case for school funding will last another two weeks. Abdallah has already presented his evidence. The state is currently defending itself.



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